

How to contact the Indian Community Branch

The Indian Community Branch has eleven Community Resource Officers, with offices located in:

Toronto
77 Bloor St. W.
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9
Tel: (416) 965-5003

Geraldton
Box 778
205A Main St. E.
Geraldton, Ontario
P0T 1M0
Tel: (807) 854-0169

Red Lake
P.O. Box 215
156 Howey St.
Red Lake, Ontario
P0V 2M0
Tel: (807) 727-2055

Dryden
P.O. Box 3000
Government Building #G4
Dryden, Ontario
P8N 3B3
Tel: (807) 223-3221

Kenora
20 Main Street
Kenora, Ontario
P9N 1S7
Tel: (807) 468-5568

Fort Frances
Box 613
240 Scott St., 2nd Fl.
Fort Frances, Ontario
P9A 3M9
Tel: (807) 274-9732

Area Supervisors for the northeast and the northwest regions are located in Orillia and Thunder Bay.

Staff in Toronto provides support to the field, works directly with provincial organizations and liaises with provincial ministries and agencies. Toronto staff consists of the Director of the Indian Community Branch and five specialized co-ordinators: a grants officer, a government liaison consultant, a research co-ordinator, a Native culture consultant, and a provincial native organizations liaison.

Plans for 1978-79

The Indian Community Branch is currently reviewing its operations. Priorities for the 1978-79 fiscal year are:

- To engage in a consultation process with the Native community and with government to complete this review.
- To develop a research and information capability within the branch to better understand and improve services to its clients. Already a demographic survey of Indians in Ontario is being designed.
- To develop and articulate a set of grants criteria and to consistently apply them.
- To develop an evaluation system for the branch's program activities, including the grants.
- To increase the branch's assistance to, and liaison with, off-reserve Native organizations in responding to the needs of their members and clients.



Ontario

Ministry of
Culture and
Recreation

Hon. Robert Welch
Minister
Robert D. Johnston
Deputy Minister
D356 6/78 4800

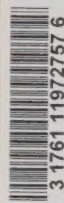
Indian Community Branch

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Who we are

The Indian Community Branch is a consultative and community development agency which fosters the development of Native communities both on and off reserves in Ontario, through its activities in these communities and within government.

Goals of the Indian Community Branch

1. To encourage Native people in the development of self-reliance and to promote their full participation in the broader community.
2. To support Native efforts to preserve and develop their cultural identity.
3. To assist in the development of human resources and leadership capabilities in the Native community.
4. To assist Native communities in improving their social and economic conditions.
5. To promote direct Native access to Government services and resources.

Why the Indian Community Branch?

The Indian Community Branch is located within the Citizenship and Multiculturalism Division of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. The Ministry of Culture and Recreation Act, Section 8(a), states that the minister shall "... in the cause of human betterment, advance and encourage the concept of full and equal citizenship. . . ." Further, Section 6(1) of the Act states that the ministry is to advance and encourage responsible citizenship, including the preserving of the cultural heritage of Ontario residents, with full recognition of their diverse traditions and background.

Therefore, Native people are being offered assistance, not because they are Native people, but because, for a variety of historical reasons, full and equal citizenship with other residents of Ontario has not been achieved to date.

What does the Indian Community Branch do?

The programs of the Indian Community Branch include community development, grants, and advisory services.

Community development activities may range from consultation, referral, information, liaison and co-ordination to financial assistance. Emphasis is placed on human resource and leadership development.

Grants may be utilized as a community development tool in Native-initiated cultural, socio-economic or leadership projects.

Advisory services on programs and policies affecting Native people are provided to provincial ministries and agencies to facilitate direct communication between Native people and government. The Indian Community Branch bases its advice on its unique field presence among, and familiarity with, Native communities and organizations.

Who are the Native clients?

1. Native people on reserve

It is estimated that 35,820, or 59%, of Ontario Indians live on reserves. Field staff of the Indian Community Branch works closely with Indian Bands and Band Councils. With the growth of the major status Indian organizations and their increasing capacity to deliver their own programs, the Indian Community Branch will work with the treaty organizations and bands to determine the most appropriate role of the branch for the future.

2. Native people off reserve

Approximately 24,756, or 41%, of Ontario's status Indians, and an estimated 185,000 non-status Indians and Metis (Native people of mixed ancestry) live off reserve in rural and urban communities. A number of off-reserve and non-status Native organizations such as urban Friendship Centres, Native Women's Chapters, and Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association locals, are actively involved in providing services and programs.

By all statistics then, of a total 250,000 Native people in Ontario, approximately 35,000 live on reserves, and 215,000 live off reserve. The Indian Community Branch is assuming increased responsibility for assisting Native people off reserve.